

Disability Accommodations

Colleges and universities are required to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. But, it's your responsibility to make sure the campus knows about your needs before you get there. Don't assume that every college has adequate facilities and resources. If you face learning and/or physical challenges, talk with your college of choice or school counselor to make sure the college is ready, willing, and able to meet your needs.

When you research colleges, check into student services programs. Colleges offer a wide range of assistance, from Braille texts and books on tape to complicated technologies for quadriplegic students. If you have severe Dyslexia or other learning disabilities, you can sometimes get extra time to complete exams, too.

Students with learning and/or physical challenges may also be able to receive extra time on exams like ACT® and SAT® or compete for special scholarships. The Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) has a list of links on its Web site, <http://www.ahead.org>, with information about disability issues, including links to college centers for students with disabilities. The Post-ITT Web site also has a collection of resources and activities to help students with disabilities transition from high school to college. Visit <http://www.postitt.org> for more information.

Student Parents

If you're a teen parent, you also face some unique challenges. You might want to go away to college, but you worry about leaving home and family, finding housing, childcare, and work. Or, you might want to stay close to home and wonder what services are available for you.

Talk to the admissions office at your college of choice before you decide whether to apply. Find out what the school has to offer. Colleges are interested in having a diverse student body. They will do their best to meet your needs.

- ▶ Most four-year colleges and universities offer family housing units for married students or students with children. These apartments are usually less expensive than housing near the college. Some schools even offer rental furniture for family apartments.

If you are interested in living away from home, contact the housing office at your college of choice. Ask for apartment floor plans and rent information. If you take a tour of the campus, ask your tour guide about family housing options. Your tour guide may be able to tell you where the units are located (they probably won't be part of the tour). Later, you can visit the area on your own or with a family member or friend. Also, ask about waiting lists, waiting times, and assignment priorities. Family housing units can be limited. Single parents with financial need may have the first priority.

- ▶ Transportation assistance may also be available. Some colleges and universities operate shuttles to and from family housing units. Others offer reduced-price bus passes through the student activities or student services office.
- ▶ Many colleges and universities offer reduced-price childcare services to students and staff. The hours of operation may be more flexible than you think, offering daytime and evening care. Check with admissions representatives and student services offices for more information.